

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir. However, due to incessant rain since last fortnight, some pot holes have developed which are being attended to and the traffic is flowing.

(b) National Highways are being kept in traffic worthy condition within available resources.

Agreement between India and U.S.A

872. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and U.S.A. recently in the field of Transport;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of this agreement; and

(c) the date from which this agreement is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) The Government of India and the Department of Transportation USA, have signed a Memorandum of Intent to identify the objectives of a possible agreement on collaboration between the two countries in transportation, science and technology.

Relaxation in Income-Tax for Private Sector

873. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide relaxation in income tax on investment made in road construction section in order to encourage private sector participation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date from which the above decision is likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under Section 80(1)(A) of the Income-Tax Act entrepreneurs operating infrastructure facilities which include roads, have been given:—

(i) 100% income-tax exemption on profits for the five years.

(ii) 30% income-tax concession on profits thereafter for the next five years.

(iii) Such deduction to run for a continuous period of 10 years out of 12 fiscal years at the assessee's choice after starting of the facility.

(iv) 40% of the profit from infrastructure deductible under Section 36(i)(viii) of the aforesaid Act for financial institutions providing long term finance to defined infrastructure sector including roads.

(c) These have already been made effective.

[English]

Airport at Raichur in Karnataka

874. SHRI RAJA RANGAPPA NAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airport Authority of India have surveyed for opening of airport at Raichur in Karnataka recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The feasibility study carried out by Airports Authority of India (AAI) team has indicated that a runway of dimensions 4500 ft. × 150 ft. can be constructed for operation of 50 seater aircraft. This airport belongs to the Government of Karnataka and it is for the State Government to take up the upgradation of the airport.

[Translation]

Striking Down of Appeal

875. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Kendriya Vidyalayon mein vivekadhin kote sey daakhile ke appeal Khaarij" appearing in the Hindi daily 'Jansatta' dated April 17, 1997; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi rejected Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) plea for allowing them to make special dispensation admission pending finalisation of a writ petition filed by an association of KVS employees.

The writ petition was disposed of as infructuous in view of Government's orders abolishing all discretionary quotas enjoyed by the Ministers in all the Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India. The Government are abiding by the directions of the Hon'ble Court.

Maintenance in Flight No. 411

876. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for poor maintenance, substandard catering service and mutilated and broken chairs in Delhi-Lucknow-Patna bound flight No. 411 leaving at 5.15 P.M. from Delhi;

(b) whether the complaints from the M.Ps and other general passengers are not entertained; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Alliance Air is unlifting meals in its flights from reputed caterers. The supplies from these caterers are monitored regularly to ensure quality service to the passengers. Aircraft interior is also checked regularly and kept clean and tidy.

(b) and (c) Complaints received are immediately acknowledged and thoroughly examined by Indian Airlines/ Alliance Air. Corrective action is taken wherever required to improve the service to the passengers.

Irrigation Project damaged by Earthquake

877. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation projects and multipurpose projects damaged due to earthquake during 1995-96, 1996-97, and the current year so far, State-wise;

(b) the total loss suffered as a result thereof during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive action plan to repair the dams and projects damaged due to earthquake; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) No damage to irrigation & multipurpose projects was reported due to earthquake during 1995-96 and 1996-97. During the current year, i.e. 1997-98 and earthquake with an intensity of 6 on the Richter scale occurred about 20 Km. North-East of Jabalpur City in Madhya Pradesh in the early morning of 22.5.1997. No major damage to dams has been reported due to above earthquake. However, minor damages to 43 Water Resources structures in Madhya Pradesh have been reported.

(b) The total cost of repair work as estimated by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for damaged Water Resources structures is Rs. 304.46 lakhs.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has already started implementation of Short-term measures from State Funds costing about Rs. 47 lakhs. Long-term measures are planned to be taken up after the monsoon season.

[English]

Deficiencies in IAF Training System

878. SHRI RAMBAHADUR SINGH :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to equip the IAF with multi-role fighter aircraft US-30 when a potentially dangerous gap exists in IAF training system; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to remove the deficiency in the advanced training system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) In order to maintain the combat force level of the IAF to cater for retirement of ageing combat aircraft, it has inducted state-of-the-art multi-role US-30 aircraft. There is however, no potentially dangerous gap in the training system of the IAF. Sufficient IAF personnel have undergone training in Russia on SU-30 aircraft. The training facilities for training of additional personnel are being set up by the IAF. This facility will have necessary infrastructure required to meet the operational/maintenance training requirements.